

several CDs of the orchestras music, which I enjoy very much.

I am pleased to join with a bipartisan coalition of members in co-sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 157, which recognizes the invaluable contributions orchestras have made to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful talents brought forth by this country's orchestras, including the amazing young musicians of the Cleveland Youth Orchestra.

DIANA FAIRCHILD AWARDED THE SILENT HERO AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Fairchild, an emergency response communicator in Lewisville, Texas. Ms. Fairchild was recently awarded the Silent Hero Award.

The award, presented by the Commission on State Emergency Communications, CSEC, is presented to an individual who employs exceptional professionalism in the field of emergency communications. Winners of the award must be "solid" dispatchers whom are "always reliable and professional." Diana's supervisors say she "always goes the extra mile." On her own time, Ms. Fairchild has been known to visit a number of individuals in the hospital or rehabilitation, and she has even made gifts for those whom she has helped in emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize this individual for her professionalism and dependency and big heart she brings to her job. Her prestigious Silent Hero Award echoes her commitment and dedication as an emergency dispatcher. I am honored to represent her in Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to important constituent casework meetings, I was absent from the House of Representatives for portions of Thursday, June 30, 2005. Should I have been in attendance, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 346, "no"; rollcall 356, "no."

HONORING THE 2005 CONGRESSIONAL GOLD AWARD MEDAL WINNERS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13 winners of the Congressional Gold Award from the 22nd District of Florida. Each award winner has spent at least 2 years completing over 400 hours of community serv-

ice, half of which is spent in personal development and physical fitness activities, including a four-night expedition.

Ms. Alexandra Brady of Palm Beach Gardens has dedicated her time fundraising for two different cancer groups. One is her local Cancer Society, while the other is the "Comfort Bag Project," a program that brings goody bags to young victims of cancer at St. Mary's Children's Hospital. In addition to these notable achievements, Alexandra has spent the last 4 years teaching in a local children's camp.

Ms. Carolyn Cox of Palm Beach Gardens volunteers at the Jupiter Medical Center where she assists the hospital staff. Additionally, Carolyn has dedicated her free time to working on fundraisers to provide medical services for less privileged individuals. Her quest for personal development led her to Costa Rica for a 10-day trip in which she learned about the history and culture of the Pacific Coast area.

Mr. Patrick Eucalitto of Palm Beach Gardens has volunteered with several national health organizations. Most notably, Patrick co-founded the Relay for Life Youth Council for the local American Cancer Society. In a pursuit to understand different cultures, Patrick has developed a fluent understanding of both Spanish and French. Additionally, Patrick has logged over 850 hours of training and racing time in competitive swimming.

Ms. Regen Foley of Palm Beach Gardens has proven herself as a born leader through her efforts as the founder and coordinator of the "Comfort Bag Project" at St. Mary's Children's Hospital. Furthermore, Regen spent time abroad in the Czech Republic, gaining an appreciation for the Czech culture while at the same time receiving a new understanding of her own national identity. Regen has also put in over 300 hours as a starter for her school's JV basketball team.

Ms. Elizabeth Folmar of Palm Beach Gardens has been involved with the Safe Harbor Rescue League, a shelter for mistreated dogs and cats, for the last 5 years. Additionally, Elizabeth volunteers at her local youth court serving as a lawyer. During her free time, Elizabeth has developed her nautical skills, navigating and skipping sailboats. This personal development activity has led her to plan a trip to the Outer Abaco islands of the Bahamas on her family sailboat.

Ms. Courtney Kneip of Palm Beach Gardens spends her time after school volunteering for a local kindergarten teacher. Courtney has participated in several community fundraisers for medical research. Pursuing her love of music, Courtney achieved a superior rating at Solo and Ensemble for her flute performance of Sonata Number 5. Courtney has spent time in French Canada where she immersed herself in the language and culture.

Mr. Kyle Lambrecht of Jupiter volunteers at his local Center for Information and Crisis Services and participates in a program that performs community outreach to the elderly. In addition, Kyle has auditioned for the All-State and Jazz Bands, performing both percussion and piano. Kyle is on both the varsity golf and tennis teams at his high school and he hopes to improve his skills in order to become one of the highest rated players.

Ms. Robin Lucas of Palm Beach Gardens serves as a mentor for the Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Robin has spent her free time

organizing and participating on a fundraising committee benefiting the Headstart Preschool. Robin has studied piano and taken weekly tennis lessons in order to advance to the upper intermediate level. Furthermore, Robin spent part of her time abroad, living with a local family in Mexico, learning Spanish and gaining an understanding of Mexican history and culture.

Ms. Kerry O'Neil of Jupiter volunteered for her high school's Academy of Finance, tutoring her fellow students in mathematics and finance. Kerry also spends her time working in the school yearbook office. Additionally, she competes in both lacrosse and swimming, earning Junior Olympic-level times in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle event. Kerry also planned a 10-day exploration to Italy where she learned about Italian culture.

Mr. Matthew Puchferran of Boca Raton coordinated the Nation's largest youth-led National Day of Prayer Teen Freedom Rally in 2004. Matthew organized over 1,600 teens and their families in order to hold prayer for the Nation's soldiers and leaders. In his spare time, Matthew has mastered the keyboard, leading his youth group worship band. He has competed on his high school soccer team for the past 4 years, and attended weekend campouts with the Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, Matthew spent time in Juarez, Mexico serving children, and helped a Boys and Girls Club on a North Carolina Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Mr. Sean Smith of Palm Beach Gardens volunteered for Better Health, a health awareness group. Sean also served as chairperson for the Health Action Council, which is designed to promote youth volunteering. Sean spends his free time mastering the guitar as well as competing on his school's basketball team. Additionally, he has explored the Western United States, viewing several of our Nation's natural treasures such as the Grand Canyon and Lake Mead.

Ms. Alexandra Trimper of Jupiter has volunteered for Jupiter Head Start where she organized a Christmas project for young children. Alexandra also plays the flute and competes on her high school tennis team where she advanced to the Florida State Championships.

Ms. Christine Vartan of Jupiter volunteered her time teaching the elderly how to use computers. Christine took ballroom dancing lessons, and is a self-taught member of her school's golf team. In an expedition to enhance her understanding of our Nation's history, she visited St. Augustine, Florida and Savannah, GA, learning about the famous River Street and its historical significance.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF GERALD R. PIGEON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Mr. Gerald R. Pigeon, a resident of Western New York who dedicated his life to his country, his community and his family—a life cut short by a tragic accident on July 9, 2005.

A Buffalo, New York native, Mr. Pigeon was born on July 18, 1936 and as a young man attended South Park High School, where he graduated in 1954.

In 1956, Mr. Pigeon left Western New York on a mission to serve this great Nation. For the next 6 years he was trained as an air traffic controller in the United States Air Force. Following an honorable discharge, Mr. Pigeon used the skills he learned in the military to earn a living in St. Louis and Chicago.

After starting a family with his wife, Barbara, in 1972 Mr. Pigeon decided to come back to his hometown and raise his children in the Town of West Seneca, a suburb of Buffalo.

Upon returning Mr. Pigeon earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, after which he devoted his energy as a public servant in the Town of West Seneca Department of Building and Grounds, where he worked for the next 24 years.

In addition to his commitment to his job, Mr. Pigeon was enthusiastically involved in his community as a coach and referee for the West Seneca Youth Hockey Organization, a member of the Father Baker Council, Knights of Columbus, a fourth-degree member of Father John Schaus Council 4652 Knights of Columbus and a parishioner of Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

Mr. Pigeon passed down his love for public service to his children including his son Steven who earned a law degree, was elected by the residents of Erie County's 9th District to serve in the Erie County Legislature and led the County's Democratic Party as Chairman of the Erie County Democratic Committee.

In addition to leaving behind a legacy of service to this community, Mr. Pigeon leaves behind a loving family including his wife of 48 years, two daughters, one son, four siblings, eleven grandchildren and step-grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to recognize Mr. Gerald R. Pigeon, a man whose spirit and involvement has made a lasting mark on the Western New York Community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. BARBARA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the parish community of St. Barbara Roman Catholic Church, as members and leaders celebrate 100 years of faith and hope throughout Cleveland's southwest side. Throughout the past century, St. Barbara's Parish has served as a spiritual refuge, opening its doors to individuals and families in search of guidance and peace.

The ministry of St. Barbara's began in 1905, serving Polish immigrant families who settled near Henninger and Denison Roads. Father Albert Migdalski was appointed as the first pastor. Pastor Migdalski and a small yet dedicated group of parishioners led the effort to construct St. Barbara's first permanent home. On Christmas Day in 1907, Pastor Migdalski celebrated the first mass at the new church building, constructed on the corner of Valley Road and Elston Avenue. A church hall and

pastoral residence were also built on the grounds.

Since that time, a number of pastors and parishioners have served as critical guides in the journey of the faithful at St. Barbara's Church. Over the years, the parish community of St. Barbara's has evolved and grown, and has also survived numerous struggles and hardships. Tragedy struck St. Barbara's in 1916, when a fire completely destroyed the church. Eventually, because of its committed members and leaders, St. Barbara's Church and School were built near West 15th and Denison Avenue. The school operated for more than 40 years, until financial struggles forced its closure in 1969.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every past and current member and spiritual leader of St. Barbara's Church. Despite hardship and adversity, St. Barbara's parish continues to provide a haven of faith, guidance, renewal and support for more than 350 families, along Cleveland's southwest side and far beyond.

HONORING RAYMOND DUNNING, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of Raymond Dunning Jr. Mr. Dunning has served his community in a variety of capacities his entire life, and I would like to take the opportunity to recognize this man's life on the eve of his retirement.

Throughout his life, Mr. Dunning has been selfless, starting with his commitment to excellence in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program during his college years at Sam Houston State. During his time there, he won numerous awards for achievement, culminating his senior year, where he served as ROTC commander and then was selected from thousands of applicants to receive a Regular Army Commission of Second Lieutenant upon graduation in 1964. While serving in Vietnam, he rose to the rank of Captain, was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device in May of 68, and then in August of 68 he received a Bronze Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster.

Since his discharge from the army, Mr. Dunning has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those around him, both through his professional career and in his spare time. He worked with a hospital management company which helped troubled hospitals get back on their feet. Since moving to Lewisville, in his capacity as President and CEO of the hospital system, Mr. Dunning has worked hard to improve the local health care system by helping to expand the hospital system and also by improving the standard of care. The hospital has more than doubled its bed capacity and added a new ICU and a cardiovascular line.

Many men would be happy with those professional accomplishments, but it is what Mr. Dunning has done in his spare time that resulted in him being named Lewisville's Citizen

of the year in 1994. He has served on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, participated in committees dedicated to improving the local police and school systems, and volunteered to be the director of the local United Way. This is just a short list of the many hats he has worn to help the Lewisville area grow and flourish.

It is with great honor I stand here today to recognize a man who has touched so many people on a personal level and asked nothing in return.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent from the House of Representatives on Friday, June 24, 2005. Should I have been in attendance, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall 310: no.
Rollcall 312: aye.
Rollcall 314: no.
Rollcall 318: no.
Rollcall 321: aye.

MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR VETERANS MEDICAL SERVICES

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3130 because it provides much needed medical care funding for our Nation's veterans.

As we approach our Nation's 229th birthday, we reflect upon what has kept the United States as a free and sovereign Nation—it is our veterans, who have fought to protect the freedoms we cherish every day.

The passage of H.R. 3130 is critical, as it provides nearly \$1 billion in emergency funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue treating veterans' health care needs. We made a promise to our veterans to provide them with health care when they made a promise to our Nation to defend us from evils around the world.

Since 1995, Congress has doubled the spending for each veteran. In just the last five years, Congress has increased spending on veterans health care by \$10 billion—and this is not counting the additional funding, nearly \$1 billion, in H.R. 3130.

H.R. 3130 solidifies the fact that the House of Representatives stands committed to ensuring that the needs of our Nation's veterans are met.

I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of this very important legislation. I continue to hold all armed forces veterans in the highest regard and pray for the safety of those currently serving in the armed forces around the world.